

## District Councillor Report October 2020

### **Planning.**

The Government white paper "Planning for the future" was issued on August 6<sup>th</sup> for a 12 week consultation period. Consultation is open to all. The white paper contains a number of radical proposals, all aimed at shaking up and speeding up the planning process. The Government has set a target of 300,000 new dwellings a year and clearly this is aimed at helping to achieve that goal. I encourage all with an interest in planning, local environment, and climate change to get involved. SDC will be responding following a briefing to Councillors and that briefing will be available to Parish Councils and may also be viewed on SDC YouTube channel.

### **Local Plan**

It seems like only yesterday but our District Local Plan came into force in November 2015. Reviews are required every 5 years, and our plan review is well under way. Unfortunately the pandemic has slowed things down slightly. Also the Government have changed the calculation which produces the number of houses required to be built in the plan period. The figure we had been working on was 456 new homes per year, however under the "revised standard housing method" this figure will rise to 641. Because of this it has been decided to carry out a further shortened public consultation on various housing options and also invite comments on additional development sites that might be included as reserve sites in the plan under the new plan. It is important that there are sufficient sites identified in the new plan, with a sufficient buffer should any of our chosen sites be rejected by the Planning Inspector at the public examination stage. That could result in us having to restart the new plan all over again. A further consideration is that the figure of 641 will rise to 786 later on in 2021. The timetable now is for SDC council approval by May in 2021, before the numbers change

### **Meetings at SDC**

We continue to have virtual meetings of committees and Council using the Zoom platform.

This is not ideal, particularly, in my view, for the Development Control Committee to consider planning applications, where the committee cannot carry out site visits. We have to make do with phone videos of sites, which makes it nigh on impossible to really appreciate the wider settings of sites.

### **Fly tipping**

There seems to be more of this scourge these days. If you see any please report it direct to SDC via their website. Our contractors Ubico do endeavour to deal with incidents within 48 hours. They will also look for any clues for the perpetrators.

### **Roads**

Finally a big thank you to Gloucestershire County Council for the excellent job they have done in resurfacing Severnleaze Lane. Earlier in the year I said it was the worst place for potholes ! Now it is great.

Nigel Cooper

SDC Councillor Painswick & Upton ward